Use of Video to Communicate Possibilities for Integrated Information Management

Ann J. Olsen, M.B.A., M.A.
Informatics Center
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN 37232-8340

As part of our information management planning process, Vanderbilt University Medical Center is using videos to capture, communicate, and obtain feed-back on end-user visions. In the spring of 1993, members of our Education, Patient Care, Research, and Administrative Domain Committees wrote scenarios to describe how they each might be working in five to ten years [1]. In December 1993, we completed a 10-minute video based on one of the Education Domain's scenarios. The video combines, through skillful editing, brief clips of interactions with existing applications and new screens prototyped with Microsoft Visual Basic to create illusions of new operational systems.

The video illustrates the following possibilities:

- Voice interaction with the computer.
- Integration of voice and electronic messages.
- Integration of individual calendars with the patient database and clinic appointments.
- Personalized information filtering.
- Continual updating of literature searches.
- Wide-spread network access to educational resources.
- Using educational modules to support direct patient care.
- Using a patient database to support clinical teaching.
- Enhanced faculty/student communication.
- Advance, off-site preparation for rounds with sharable electronic charts.
- Distance learning.
- Integrating evaluation with computer-based instruction.
- Automated resource scheduling.
- Sharable image resources to support teaching and research.
- Using telemedicine to provide specialist support of primary care providers.

This video has been invaluable in stimulating individuals and groups to think creatively about how information technologies might assist them. It has also been helpful to show groups such as our Medical Center Advisory Board what kinds of things we want to accomplish and to generate support for our new directions with information technology.

Videos offer an alternative to building prototypes or real world demonstration systems to communicate functional possibilities. A video can be used to demonstrate a wide variety of functions easily and quickly. The video format also supports the iterative process of identifying desirable function. As visions are shared through a video, flaws are identified and new ideas surface. New paradigms begin to emerge. A vision video can be updated to let the process start again. Videos also provide an alternative to technology fairs; they can reach broad audiences and present a clear vision.

In October 1994, we will complete a second video which will focus on patient care. This poster session will demonstrate both videos, show the screen prototypes, and provide information about the process used to create the videos (script writing, prototyping, voice overs, editing) and the resources required.

Reference

[1] Olsen AJ, Baker WL, Sittig DF, Stead WW: A Planning Process for a Fast Track to IAIMS. Proc 17th Symp Computing Appl Med Care, ed. Safran C, McGraw-Hill 1994: 544-548.

Acknowledgement

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